

Healthy RI National Reform Implementation Task Force

Workforce Development Work Group

Notes from 07/22/10 Meeting

Priority: Make RI an appealing place for doctors to practice

- How can funding opportunities in the federal law be used to provide incentives for physicians to practice in RI?

- Primary care doctors typically receive less pay than other doctors and have to perform extensive work in order to achieve their pay – this presents a challenge to be addressed

- Related health professionals in addition to primary care doctors (physician's assistants, advanced practice nurses etc.) will need to be examined as part of the staffing solution for a new delivery system

- Well-care should be a focus because it controls the need for sick-care and lowers costs.

- Expanding loan forgiveness in underserved areas may help to stimulate the workforce.

- The group needs to find a way to utilize the new legislation to make RI a place where primary care physicians will choose to practice and where primary care is an attractive option when considered against other areas of specialization.

- The group recognizes the problems of a lack of capacity in higher education and medical schools focusing on areas other than primary care.

- The group would like to revisit state regulations to make them more flexible for the licensing and scope of practice for some categories of health professionals.

- The group is interested in the provision of services for low-income participants so that they are able to receive medical training (perhaps rather than medical assistant or billing specialist training): transportation, child-care and other barriers to such training will need to be considered.